GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1892
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2003
RESEARCH IN BIO-TECHNOLOGY
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set aside Rs. 40 crore for research in bio-technology for maximum utilisation of genetic engineering in agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have so far formed three committees to identify institutions that can be part of bio-technology functioning;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government also propose to change the structure of Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC); and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): The Research in biotechnology in agriculture is being carried out by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), State Agricultural Universities (SAUS) and other agencies. Besides, there are several projects funded by the Department of Biotechnology. In the ICAR, the National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi and National Research Centre on DNA Fingerprinting New Delhi are exclusively working on biotechnology and related aspects supported by other crop- commodity institutes. In addition to these, ICAR has proposed Rs. 40 crore for Network on Transgenics in crop plants to the Planning Commission.

(c) & (d): For identification of institutions for Human Resource Development in Biotechnology, one committee has been constituted.

(e) There is no such proposal at present in the Ministry of Environment and Forest under which the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) functions.

(f) Question does not arise.